

U.S. Serial No.: 09/938,366

## REMARKS

**I. Introduction**

Claims 1-38 are pending in the above application.

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1, 25 and 38 are independent claims.

**II. Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14, 15, 20-35 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (U.S. Pub. 2001/0004361).

Claims 16-19 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Moon (U.S. Pat. 5,904,038).

Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *Ecolochem Inc. v. Southern California Edison Co.*, 227 F.3d 1361, 56 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1065 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2D (BNA) 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 U.S.P.Q.2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); and *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). See also MPEP 2143.01.

Neither Kobayashi nor Moon, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest connecting a plurality of devices which have a common telephone number and which are connected to a network, by: looking up the telephone number in a table that associates the telephone number with a plurality of devices having unique addresses; establishing a connection

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with a first one of said devices; establishing a bridge between the first device and a second device, the second device having a different address than the first device and a common telephone number with the first device, as substantially required by claims 1, 25 and 38. Kobayashi merely discloses a LAN with a plurality of phones, each phone has its own extension phone number. Fig. 2 ("Extension Telephone No. 100, 101"); ¶ 0025 ("the user name and the extension telephone number are used to identify a telephone") and 0027 ("the control circuit 110 associates the private IP address allocated to the telephone 200 with the ID, extension telephone number and user name"). Accordingly, Kobayashi is not silent on whether or not each of the phones have the same number as indicated in the Office action, Kobayashi expressly discloses that they do not have the same number.

The assertion in the Office action that "it is well known in the art that an (sic) extension telephone number is (sic) used when there is a common telephone number." Office action, pg. 3. While the contention made by the Examiner is not entirely clear, to the extent that the Examiner is alleging that telephones with individual extension phone numbers have a common phone number to initiate communication therewith, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide evidence to support such contention as set forth by MPEP § 2144.03. Even if true, *arguendo*, such contention does not have any bearing on the use of devices with different address to operate on the same phone number. Conventional POTS devices which may operate on the same phone number of course do not generally have addresses.

Kobayashi also does not establish a bridge between a first device and a second device. The mere existence of two phones on a LAN, each with their own extension phone numbers does not establish a bridge between the two devices. Indeed, most office complexes are on a LAN

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and a bridge is not generally established from one worker to the next worker unless the second worker's own number is also called, such as in a conference call.

Moon also does not disclose or suggest connecting a plurality of devices which have a common telephone number by establishing a bridge between the first device and a second device, the second device having a different address than the first device and a common telephone number with the first device, and the Office action does not appear to rely on Moon for such.

Hence as neither Kobayashi nor Moon disclose or suggest all of the limitations of any of independent claims 1, 25 or 38, the combination of Kobayashi and Moon does not render these claims unpatentable. Moreover, as claims 2-24 and claims 26-37 depend on claims 1 and 25, respectively, and incorporate all of the limitations thereof, respectively, the combination of Kobayashi and Moon also does not render these claims unpatentable.

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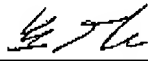
**III. Conclusion**

Having fully responded to the Office action, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues arise that prevent early allowance of the above application, the examiner is invited contact the undersigned to resolve such issues.

To the extent an extension of time is needed for consideration of this response, Applicant hereby request such extension and, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 502117 for any fees associated therewith.

Date: 3/24/06

Respectfully submitted,

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